



USAID/EGAT/ED, Participant Training Team

TraiNet/VCSNewsletter

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NEWS

The staff of the TraiNet/VCS Helpdesk is pleased to present our 8th newsletter with updates on TraiNet and the VCS system.

Important Reminder

All continuing participants and dependents who will be in the U.S. after August 1, 2003 have to be entered into TraiNet and processed through the VCS immediately. "Continuing participants and dependents" are those who are currently in the U.S. under a USAID J-1 visa on an old (pre-SEVIS) DS-2019 or IAP-66a.

Nothing needs to be done for participants who are currently in the U.S. on a DS-2019 that was generated by entering data into TraiNet and processing through the VCS.

Dependents in TraiNet & VCS

A new, mandatory update to TraiNet has been released and is available for immediate download from <http://trainet.usaid.org>. A new tab has been added to the participant's biodata screen to hold information on dependents. New Wizards have been added to the system to guide you through entering dependent data.

The VCS has also been updated so that Verifiers and Approvers can process dependents.

SEVIS Responsibility Changed

As of March 1, 2003, the responsibility for the SEVIS system was shifted from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) to the DHS, Directorate of Border and

HINTS & TIPS

TraiNet Operators: When you enter a participant's visa information, pay particular attention to make sure you pick the correct category. Once a DS-2019 form is issued, it is difficult to switch between categories without creating a whole new program.

TraiNet Operators: Remember to keep the status of participants and programs updated in TraiNet, even if they are In Country or Third Country. Remember also, the difference between canceling and terminating a participant. A participant can cancel up until the start of her/his program. Once the program has begun, if a participant drops out or is removed from the program she/he is terminated.

Verifiers: When an update comes through the VCS to void a participant (most likely due to a cancellation) do not reject the update. If the participant is cancelled, please verify the update and the VCS will do the necessary processing. Voids will not be seen by the Approvers.

Approvers: Before approving participants in the VCS, please closely compare the information in the participant's passport to the information displayed in the VCS. Do not approve if the information in the VCS does not match the passport.

Transportation Security, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE), where it will now be managed. This change will not affect the USAID TraiNet/VCS process.

Trainee Category Changed

A recent modification of the BICE's SEVIS system has changed the minimum duration requirements for participants who are categorized as "Trainees." If a participant's program is between 22 days and 18 months in length (and not an academic program), he or she should be classified as a Trainee. If the program is between 1 and 21 days in length, he or she should be classified as a Short-Term Scholar.

Photocopying DS-2019 Forms

After sending the recent reminder that signed DS-2019 forms should not be photocopied, a new consideration was brought to our attention. Some Consulate offices are giving participants sealed envelopes with certified copies of DS-2019 forms that are to be given to the airline transporting them to the U.S. Participants should always comply with Consulate instructions.

USAID Missions and partner organizations are discouraged from making additional photocopies of signed DS-2019 forms and should not, under any circumstances, make color copies or scans of the signed forms. If a form is lost or needs to be replaced, please contact the TraiNet/VCS helpdesk (jvisa@devis.com).

Don't hesitate to suggest items to be included in future newsletters, or to send comments on the services provided by the helpdesk. Please feel free to email comments and suggestions to me directly at ckagy@devis.com.

-Chris

August Workshop: On August 11-15 EGAT is hosting the bi-annual Office of Education Workshop in Washington, DC. On Tuesday there will be a session on Visa and SEVIS Related Issues, and there will be TraiNet sessions on Thursday and Friday.

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